

***Eriostemon wonganensis* (Rutaceae), a new species from the Wongan Hills, Western Australia**

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Abstract

Paul G. Wilson, *Eriostemon wonganensis* (Rutaceae), a new species from the Wongan Hills, Western Australia. Nuytsia 4 (1): 47-50 (1982). A new species, *Eriostemon wonganensis*, from the Wongan Hills, Western Australia, is described and illustrated. It belongs to sect. Nigrostipulae and differs from all other members of that section in being completely glabrous.

Since a revision of *Eriostemon* Smith was published (Wilson, 1970) several new members of the genus have been found, but in most cases in areas difficult of access from where it has not been possible to obtain suitable material for the provision of adequate descriptions. The species which is here described is found in the Wongan Hills, a low range of laterite-capped hills about 140 km north-east of Perth. It was discovered in September 1980 during a continuing survey of the plants and animals of the area (Kenneally, 1977). It is clearly distinct from all other members of the genus.

***Eriostemon wonganensis* Paul G. Wilson, sp. nov. (Figures 1 and 2)**

Fruticulus glaber c. 1 m altus. *Ramuli* graciles, vittis viridibus glandulosis e foliis decurrentibus. *Folia* estipulata, aciculares, supra plana et sulcata. *Flores* axillares, solitarii, glabri; *stamina* pyramidales; *discus* pulvinatus planus; *ovarium* pyramidale. *Semen* oblongo-reniforme, c. 2.5 mm longum; *testa* minute verrucosa (fere laevis).

Typus: Wongan Hills, 13.5 km NE of Wongan Hills township, Western Australia, 1 Sept. 1980, K. F. Kenneally 7466 (holo: PERTH; iso: CANB, K).

Erect glabrous *shrub* c. 1 m high, with a number of erect branches arising from the base. *Branches* slender, when young with green glandular-verrucose decurrencies arising from leaf bases and separated by corky strips. *Leaves* scattered, estipulate, ± erect, subsessile, slender and subterete, 5-10 mm long, glandular verrucose, sulcate and somewhat flattened above. *Flowers* solitary, axillary, glabrous; *pedicel* slender clavate, c. 5 mm long, with a few small basal bracteoles c. 0.5 mm long; *sepals* fleshy, ovate, obtuse, c. 1 mm long; *petals* oblong-elliptic, c. 5 mm long, white except for pink outer medial strip; *stamens* pyramidally arranged, c. 3 mm long with the antipetalous slightly shorter than the antisepalous; *filaments* very narrowly triangular, flattened; *anthers* quadrate, c. 1 mm long with a small white apiculum c. 0.2 mm long, pollen orange; *disc* cushion-shaped, flat; *ovary* pyramidal c. 1.5 mm high; *style* slender-terete c. 1 mm long; *stigma* small, subcapitate. *Cocci* slightly spreading in fruit, quadrate, c. 3 mm high, glandular verrucose, shortly apiculate. *Seeds* oblong-reniform, c. 2.5 mm long and 1.8 mm broad; *testa* brittle; faintly verrucose (almost smooth), black; *hilum* circular, central on abaxial face; *placental endocarp* thin.

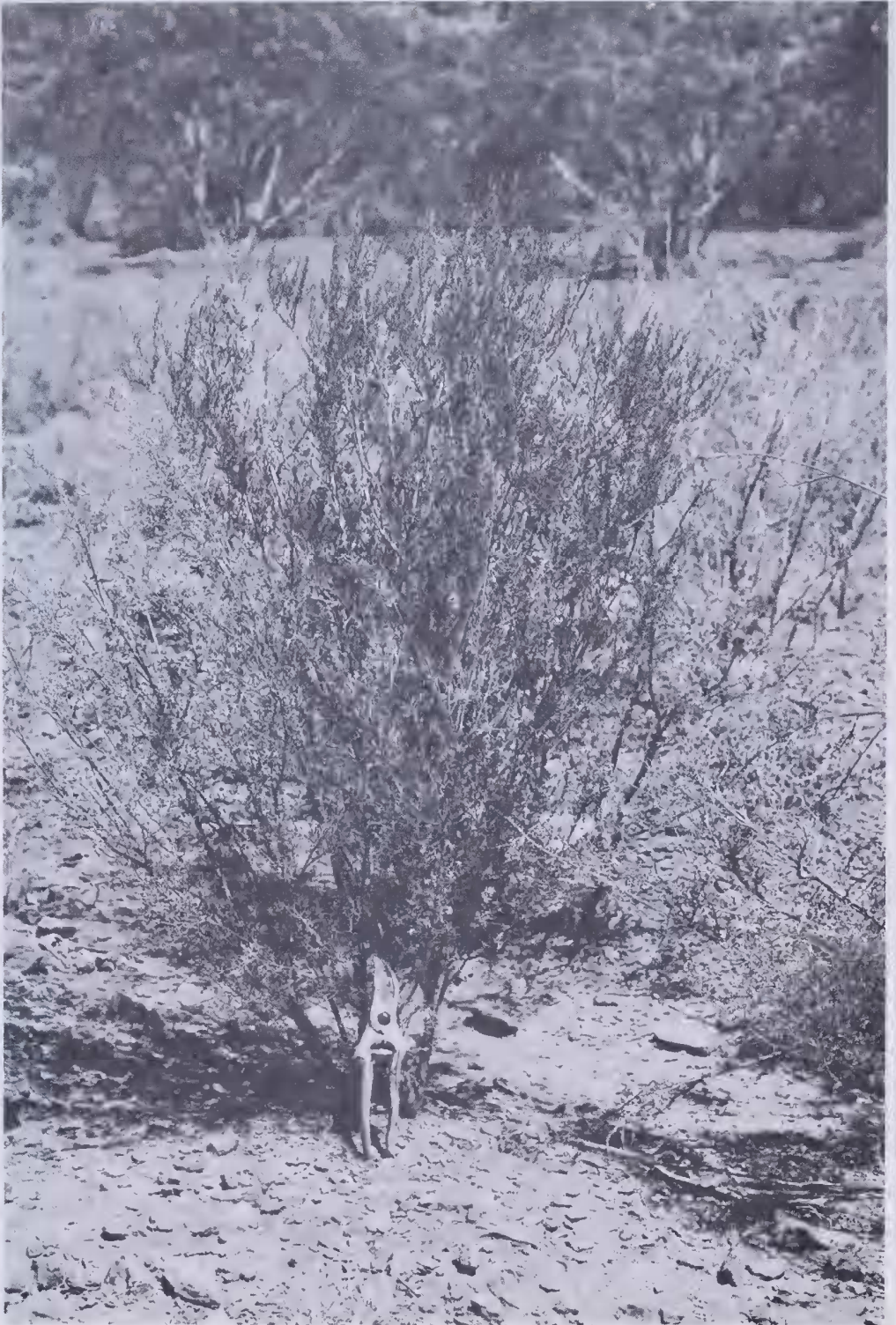


Figure 1. *Eriostemon wonganensis*. Growing in the Wongan Hills. Photo of type plant by K. F. Kenneally.

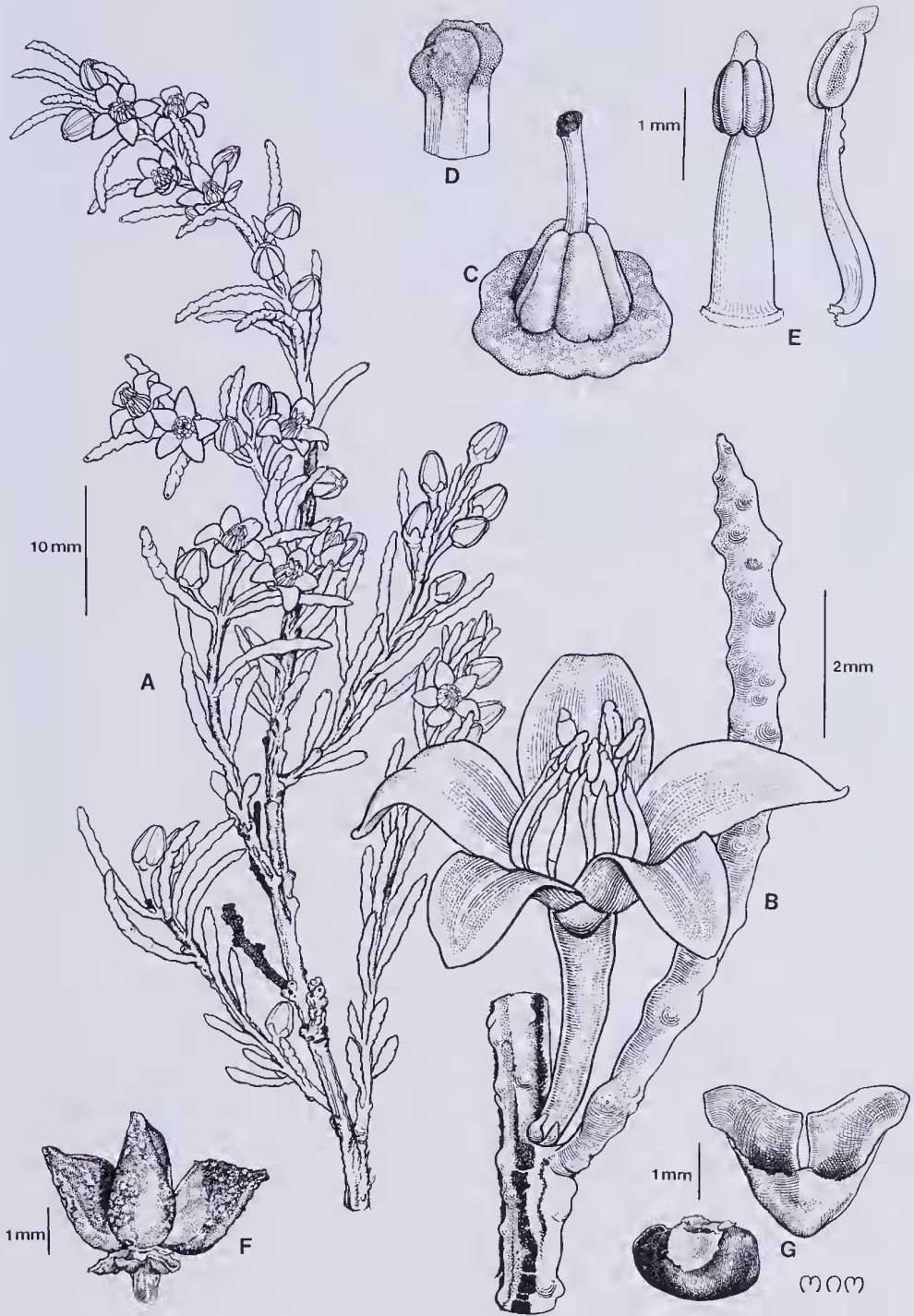


Figure 2. *Eriostemon wonganensis*. A—habit. B—flower. C—gynoecium and disc. D—stigma. E—stamens. F—fruit. G—elastic endocarp and seed with attached placental endocarp. A-E from K. F. Kenneally 7466 F. and G from K. F. Kenneally 7493.

Additional specimen examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Wongan Hills 13.5 km NE of Wongan Hills township, K. F. Kenneally 7493 (Perth).

Distribution. Only known from the Wongan Hills, c. 30°50'S 116°38'E, Western Australia.

Habitat. Red soil over fractured or schistose greenstone in open *Eucalyptus ebbanoensis* woodland (fide K. F. Kenneally in sched.).

Eriostemon wonganensis clearly belongs to the section *Nigrostipulae* Wilson (1970) as is evident from the flower and seed structure, yet, unlike other members of the section, it is completely glabrous. The only other species of *Eriostemon* which is both glabrous and axillary-flowered is *E. deserti* Pritzl of section *Gymnanthos* but in that species the staminal filaments are terete and spreading whereas in *E. wonganensis* they are flat and pyramidally arranged.

Conservation status (Hartley and Leigh, 1979). Vulnerable. *Eriostemon wonganensis* is only known from an area of a few hectares of privately owned land in the Wongan Hills where there appears to be about 100 plants present (B. Rye pers. comm.). Owing to the unusual nature of the habitat and the isolated position of the Hills, it is unlikely that this plant occurs elsewhere.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Margaret A. Menadue for preparing the illustration.

References

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